

MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

BROOKLINE TOWN HALL, ROOM 408

333 WASHINGTON STREET, BROOKLINE MA 02446

7:00 CALL MEETING TO ORDER, GROUP PHOTO SHOT, APPOINT NOTE TAKER, AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 6, 2016 MEETING.

PTAC members present: Abby Swaine (Chair), Deborah Dong, Linda Jason, Sherry Flashman, and Jane Gould (note taker).

Also present (during first agenda item): Hugh Mattison (Chairman, Brookline Tree Planting Committee), Galen Mook (Mass DOT Allston Interchange Task Force, and Landry's Bicycles), Meredith L. Mooney (Director of Government Policy, Boston University).

Minutes from January 6, 2016 meeting were approved.

7:05 GROUP PICTURE TAKING FOR BROOKLINE ANNUAL REPORT

7:10 TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

7:15 I-90 ALLSTON INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: DISCUSS PROGRESS ON BROOKLINE REPRESENTATION TO TASK FORCE AND PLANS FOR FEBRUARY 29 SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING

Abby reported that she has been working closely with Todd Kirrane so that Brookline residents are aware of the upcoming special Transportation Meeting, scheduled for February 29th at 7pm. She passed around a full page listing of the organization and officials who have been reached (attached as addendum). Abby said that the *Brookline Tab* is interested in a story, and there may also be a story follow-up by the *Boston Globe*. To date, the Transportation Board has not heard back from Mass DOT about the Brookline's request to have seat on the project task force. There has been discussion that should a seat open up, a current member of the Transportation Board will fill it.

The group discussed plans and protocol for the meeting on the 29th. There will be three speakers: 1) a representative from Mass DOT 2) Tom Nally and 3) Galen Mook or Ari Ofsevit. Each presenter will have 30 minutes or less. Galen Mook noted that the issues are complicated because the handouts and materials are "2D", but the visualization is "3D." There was discussion of the handouts, and whether the scale maps would be useful or confusing. In further planning for the meeting, Linda

suggested that the audience might submit their questions on index cards, and Hugh added that there must be a sign-in sheet.

Galen Mook said that he had attended a mid-day working group of the task force at MassDOT last week. The next task force meeting will be held in two days, on 2/14. A March meeting is scheduled for 3/10 and a second March meeting, with the BRA reviewing *The Cecil Group* report on place making will be held on 3/23 or 3/30 from 5-7 pm. A meeting in April has been set for 4/7.

In further discussion, it was suggested that the Brookline Neighborhood Alliance could also serve as a communications voice. Galen asked if there were additional issues he should touch on in his presentation and Linda noted that traffic and congestion are potential concerns. Abby noted that the special transportation meeting and the task force meetings provide a fresh opportunity to promote multi-modal transportation, and make the community more aware of bike and pedestrian improvements too. Abby hoped that this enthusiasm would be communicated to the community on the 29th. She encouraged the PTAC members to take notes when they attend.

8:15 DISCUSS MBTA TOPICS

- WINTER READINESS MEETINGS AND PERFORMANCE

- RELEVANT PORTIONS OF 'STATE OF THE SYSTEM,' AND OTHER RECENT REPORTS

- TOPICS TO DISCUSS WITH MBTA AB REP AT MARCH PTAC MEETING

A scheduled meeting on winter readiness with the MBTA was postponed by that entity. Abby asked the group whether the meeting should be rescheduled, since the winter is almost over. Board members recommended that the meeting still take place, as it would help set the standard for next winter. There was a brief discussion of the jurisdictional responsibilities, and potential confusion over snow and ice removal at transit landings, bus stops, and T cross walks. Abby observed, anecdotally, an improvement in shoveling of the bus stop landings.

Sherry Flashman introduced an item she sent around (electronically) from the Brookline High School newspaper, *The Sagamore*. It is a front page story on the route 51 bus (<http://thesagonline.com/18067/news/bus-to-southbrookline/>). This bus route is a critical link to and from school for those students who live in South Brookline. The student story indicates that bus service is tardy and inconsistent. The board also discussed the criteria for getting a student pass. It is currently \$26.00 a month, and available to eligible students for 10 months a year. The board briefly discussed other subsidized pass programs for that are being trialed by the MBTA. The board had some questions about how students refresh their fares each month. Abby noted that Mary Murphy, Transportation Coordinator for the Public Schools, could be asked for more detail.

There is currently an initiative that would expand the footprint of Brookline High School by acquisition of a nearby property. Sherry noted that the planning process must incorporate reliable and frequent public transportation. Jane said the expansion of the primary schools could follow suit, and examine the acquisition of adjacent properties in lieu of building new sites.

Abby provided highlights from the MBTA's "State of the System" report which was recently issued by the Fiscal Management Control Board (<https://www.massdot.state.ma.us/focus40/TheMBTAToday.aspx>) One key transit finding is that the Green line ridership is growing, and currently serves 230,000 riders per weekday, and its ridership is second only to the Red Line. New equipment is on order, but it will not necessarily solve the problems of a growing ridership since many platforms cannot accommodate 3 car trains. The "State of the System" also finds that many bus routes do not meet service standards for crowding (all Key routes), frequency, fleet size, and bus shelters. The report states that national standards indicate providing a bus shelter for stops with 50 to 100 boardings a day; 425 MBTA stops with over 100/day do not have shelters. For both bus and subway, lack of layover and repair facilities limits fleets size.

The board touched on items for future PTAC meetings, and discussed whether to invite Paul Regan, chair of the MBTA Advisory Board, in March or April. Some topics might include signal priority for the "C" line, and Brookline's share in other traffic management issues. Abby noted that she and Jane had an email exchange with the Central Transportation Planning Staff regarding passenger counts in Brookline for an upcoming study the CTPS will do on Shared Use Mobility (services like Uber and Bridj). Uber and Lyft have not provided data to Brookline, but Bridj, Enterprise, and Zip Car have pledged to give data on demand.

Abby said that Jane is interested in Transit Network Providers and noted that there will be more subject matter on this for the Climate Week Panel. The panel is scheduled for April 2nd, in the afternoon, at the Brookline library. PTAC has been allocated a 20-minute presentation, at most. PTAC will be working with the program's organizers over the next month.

8:30 MEMBERS REPORT ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS, WORK, AND FINDINGS SINCE FEBRUARY MEETING

In other news, Linda said that a letter of support had been submitted on behalf of PTAC in support of the TRIPPS (Transit Resources Information Planning and Partnership for Seniors) Project Renewal application.

Linda said that field trips and other work on the Beaconsfield D line stop-access project will be started up again when the weather improves.

There was a short discussion on the Bus Stop Census, which is not yet underway. It will use a standard form to geolocate each bus stop, and note the conditions and amenities at the bus stop.

8:55 The next PTAC meeting was set for Monday, 3/28

9:00 Adjourn

Addendum: listing from Josh Safer of public entities and officials sent announcement of the forthcoming Special Transportation Board meeting.

Town Meeting Members
BOS and Town Administrator
Planning Board & Department (including EDAB)
Chamber of Commerce
Neighborhood Alliance
Editor, Brookline TAB